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Country of Origin Labeling Program
Agricultural Marketing Service
USDA, Stop 0249, Room 2092-S
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D. C. 20250-0249

Dear Sirs,

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my strong opposition to the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) provision contained in the Farm Bill passed by Congress last year.

As a rancher, a cow-calf operator, a stocker operator, a cattle feeder, and a stockholder and president of Carrizo Feeders, Inc., located in Dimmit County, Texas, I am firmly convinced that COOL will be extremely harmful and detrimental to all aspects of my operation.

The record keeping requirements under this law would be very burdensome and costly and put beef producers all over the United States at a further disadvantage with the chicken industry since chicken is exempt from this law.

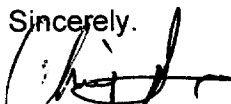
The imported cattle from Mexico that are grazed and fed and killed in the United States will not be labeled as US Beef, which I believe will cause the largest importer of US beef (Mexico) to retaliate against us because COOL is an unfair trade practice under NAFTA. This could have a disastrous effect on our cattle feeding industry.

If COOL was demanded by the consumer and would enhance the value of meat produced in the United States, this program would not have to be mandatory, producers would have an economic incentive to do it on their own. The fact that COOL has to be mandated by law is proof that there is no economic reason for it.

These are by no means the only reasons I oppose COOL, but for the sake of brevity I will not go into the others.

Thank you for reading my comments and for giving me the opportunity to express them.

Sincerely,


Chip Briscoe